

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

What an exciting week it has been! Black History Month is in full swing, and we were thrilled to have welcomed three players from the Crystal Palace Football Team on Tuesday. They shared their personal stories about their heritage, cultures, and accomplishments as professional athletes.

This kind of engagement is essential for our pupils, as it helps them connect with contemporary role models who reflect the vibrant and diverse world they live in. We want our students to see that inspiration doesn't only come from historical figures; it can also be found in the achievements of those around them today. By hearing firsthand accounts of perseverance, determination, and success from individuals who have faced and overcome challenges, our pupils are encouraged to dream big and recognise that they too can achieve their aspirations. Celebrating modern-day heroes is crucial in broadening their understanding of what role models can be and showing them that greatness is attainable in their own lives.

This week, we hosted two Parent Partnership events. On Monday, our Year 6 parents joined us for a coffee morning with David Brooks, our school counsellor. Year 6 can often feel overwhelming with exams, interviews, and the uncertainty of choosing a new school while saying goodbye to familiar faces. However, it can also be one of the most rewarding years of a child's educational journey! This event gave parents the opportunity to discuss how they can support their children during this pivotal time, offering practical strategies to foster resilience and well-being.

On Thursday, we welcomed our Preschool parents for an insightful session on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, exploring how we support children's learning and development. Parents left with ideas to enhance learning at home, making it a truly enriching experience.

Presentations from both events are available in the parents' section of our website or by clicking [here](#). You'll find the counsellor's talk under '*Decreasing The Stress, Increasing The Success*' in the pastoral section, and the EYFS talk in the academic section under 'Preschool Information Evening 2024.'

Thank you to all the parents who attended. We hope you found the sessions helpful. Education is a partnership between parents and school, and together we can help your children achieve their best. We look forward to hosting more exciting events later this term

Additionally, this Wednesday, our Year 6 pupils had a wonderful opportunity to work with Mrs. Lowe, a former Headteacher, education consultant, and one of our governors. She conducted mock interviews with our pupils, giving them valuable experience in presenting themselves confidently, especially as some prepare for their 11+ interviews. Practising interview skills is essential for their future opportunities and helps them build self-assurance and effective communication skills. We hope Year 6 found this experience beneficial, and Mrs. West is eager to incorporate the feedback from Mrs. Lowe into her weekly lessons on interview techniques. A huge thank you to Mrs Lowe for spending the day with us; we enjoyed having you!!

Finally, we invited Living Well Charity into school on Thursday. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents for their generous donations. Harvest is a historical event that has been celebrated for centuries, marking the time of year when communities come together to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. In modern times, I feel this season is an especially important opportunity to collect food for local food banks. Your contributions during this time are invaluable, as they provide essential support for families in need, ensuring that everyone can enjoy a warm meal, especially as the colder months approach. It also ties in beautifully with this spirit of giving and charity work. Our School Council members then had the privilege of witnessing the impact of our collective efforts as they delivered the donations to Living Well, accompanied by Mrs. West. They could see firsthand how our actions positively affect those in need, reinforcing the importance of empathy and community support among our students. It's a wonderful reminder of how, together, we can make a real difference in the lives of others.

See you next week for our final week of the half-term; can you believe it is here already?

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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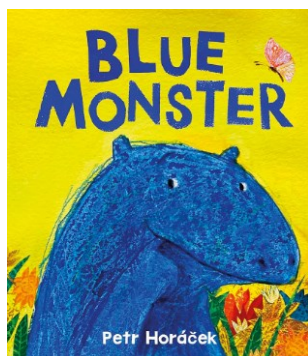


Author and Illustrator Visits/Workshops

Over the past fortnight, children across the school have enjoyed some author and illustrator workshops, either in-person or virtual, as part of their English lessons. Bringing authors and illustrators to the classroom in this way provides unique opportunities for storytelling, catalysts to spark our children's creativity, and demonstrates to them a potential career path that they may like to follow in the future.

Reception

In Reception, the children listened to Petr Horáček, illustrator of the story 'A New House For Mouse', which is covered in our English Curriculum during the Spring Term of Reception.



Throughout the virtual workshop, Petr read some of his popular stories, including: 'Blue Monster', 'Elephant', 'The Greedy Goat' and 'A Best Friend For Bear'. Sitting quietly, the children were engaged from start to finish, with plenty of giggles along the way, offering the following soundbites afterwards:

Felix RO - "I liked when blue monster ate all of his friends, it was funny!"

Sergei RO - "The elephant got squeezed into the house and it was a really silly picture!"

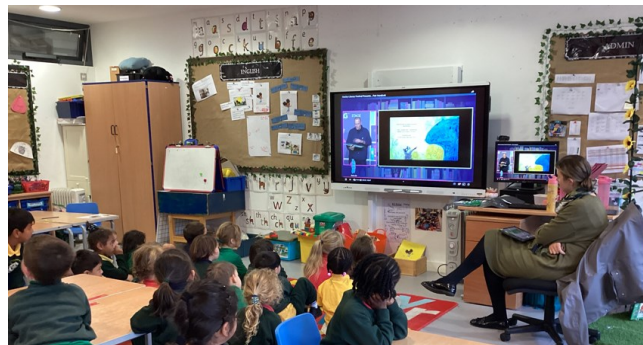
Lolade RCO - "The elephant messed everything up!"

Ruby RCO & Freya RCO - "We liked it when the goat drank all of the pig's coffee and ate his breakfast. He was very greedy!"

Year 2 and Year 3

Last Thursday morning, Year 2 and Year 3 had a morning of storytelling and illustrating with Adam Stower, author and illustrator of 'The Troll and The Oliver', which is covered in our English Curriculum during the Autumn Term of Year 3. We also welcomed pupils and staff from Bishop Challoner to join us for the special occasion.

Adam's work as an author has seen him write a range of fiction, with stories including: 'The day Fin Flooded the World', 'The Thing from Space', 'The Curse of the Mummy's Gold' and the hilari-



ous 'GRUMBUG!'. His illustrative work alongside David Walliams has captured the attention of children across the world, bringing characters to life from books such as 'Marmalade The Orange Panda', 'Little Monsters', 'Robodog' and the recent hit 'Astro Chimp'.

To commence the workshop, Adam played some illustration guessing games with the children to ignite their creativity, and get them thinking outside of the box. As the workshop progressed, the children got to listen to segments from his new story collection, 'Murray and Bun: Murray the Viking', and then do some draw-alongs with Adam using his joyous characters. Whenever it was time to draw, there was a PENCIL ALERT! The children also gave Adam suggestions to help him create a new, unique character for his stories, which



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they called 'Gobbaly the Bun-Eater'. Here's what some of the children had to say:

Sammy 3C - 'I liked it when we helped Adam design the new villain because they were all our own ideas and it looked really funny.'

Erik 3C - 'Adam's characters were very cute and my ones were good too. I love drawing!'

Kitty 2J - 'I loved learning how to draw; it is one of my favourite things to do at home.'

Mert 2J - 'I liked helped Adam design the new monster. I would like to do that again.'

Raphael 2C - 'Sketching was my favourite part as the characters were really good.'

Emily 2C - 'I loved the guessing game; it was really fun! I can't wait to read my new book.'

Towards the end of the workshop, Adam kindly signed a copy of his book for each child as a memory for the day, as well as several other copies for our school library. Before leaving St Christopher's, Adam did one final, very special doodle: a drawing of his famous troll from his book 'The Troll and The Oliver'. This drawing is now permanently doodled on the wall in our newly incepted 'Author's Alcove'... do you think you might be able to find it?!



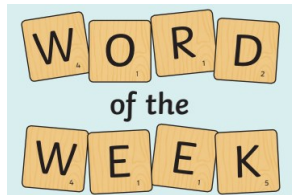
Word of the Week

Each Friday in assembly, Mr. Carter introduces a new "Word of the Week" to the pupils. This week, the words are:

- **Jubilant** for Reception to Year 2, and
- **Confound** for Years 3 to 6.

At home, parents can make learning fun by seeing if their child can give the definition of the word or

be the first to use it in a sentence during the day. Challenge your family: who will be quicker to work it into conversation—parent or child?



We continue to promote vocabulary development throughout the school and encourage families to join in the fun at home!

Grandparents' Tea

As a reminder, next week is the final chance to sign up for our biennial Grandparents' Tea on **Wednesday, 6th November**.

Timings are as follows:

- **Reception - Year 2:** 09:45-10:45 (10:15 start)
- **Year 3 and 4:** 13:15 - 14:15 (13:45 start)
- **Year 5 and 6:** 14:45 - 15:45 (15:00 start)

Please fill out the Google Form [here](#) to confirm attendance. Just a quick reminder: there is a limit of **four guests per child**, and this event is exclusively for grandparents and elderly relatives—not parents.



Fun Fine Motor Skill ECHO

We have been having all kinds of finger fabulousness during our Fun Fine Motor ECHO clubs! We used our fine motor skills to make exciting and colourful bracelets. We carefully selected the intricate clay beads and threaded them along the thin elastic.

This awesome activity required patience, resilience and a creative flair but we had so much fun that the hour flew by!



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Black History Month Celebrations

On Tuesday, we were honoured to be visited by Crystal Palace Football Team's Club Ambassador Mark Bright, as well as players Ashleigh Weerden, Maxence Lacroix and Chris Richards as part of our school's Black History Month celebrations. These professional footballers spoke about the importance of studying Black History, their career highlights and shared inspirational words about their journey as professional athletes. The children loved meeting these inspirational players in the flesh and having the opportunity to ask them some questions.

In addition, we are thrilled to announce that we have collaborated with The Beckenham Bookshop for a Black History Month focused book sale on

Thursday 17th October, at 3.30pm, in our school library. Join us to purchase texts from black authors, illustrators and with BHM themes at their heart. We look forward to seeing you there!



Juggling ECHO

For several weeks now the children have been honing their juggling skills and have made enormous progress. We have come from foot-stamping in frustration to some fully fledged jugglers! The hardest thing seems to have been getting the timing right so that graduating to the 3 ball cascade is just a case of adding the last object. We also have some very proficient one handed juggling going on.

Top Tips:

- Don't use anything that bounces (unless you have a dog to bring it back)
- Practise over a table or facing a wall.
- Throw high.
- Don't panic.
- Pull funny faces as you juggle.
- Be Resilient.



Allergy reminder:

Please do not send in snacks which contain nuts or sesame seeds.



What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Tuesday 15th October**
 - Year 4 Mixed Netball (All Year 4) v Colfes (Away) (14:45-17:15)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 16th October**
 - Virtual Author Workshop - Benjamin Dean for Year 6 (11:00-12:00)
- 🔔 **Thursday 17th October**
 - Freshwater Theatre Workshop Year 1
 - BHM Beckenham Bookshop Sale in Library (15:15-17:15)
- 🔔 **Friday 18th October**
 - Cross Country (selected pupils in Years 4, 5, 6) v Colfes (Away) (13:00-16:30)